

Respect Your Forest

Sequoia National Forest

This is information about personal sanitation (management of human waste) while visiting the Sequoia National Forest. Millions of people visit the Sequoia National Forest each year and visitation is increasing yearly. Improper personal sanitation and the improper disposal of waste degrade the recreation experience and can degrade water quality and wildlife habitat. Worst of all it can spread diseases. Please help us keep the Sequoia National Forest clean by following the sanitation practices below.

With in the Sequoia National Forest there are developed campgrounds, dispersed camping, and wilderness areas. **Campfire permits are required** when camping in all these areas. **However, camping and the use of campfires are not permitted within 25 feet of the Kern River's edge, streams and trails. Campfires include wood fires with rock rings and barbecues.**

Do not wash yourself, dishes, food or anything else directly in any river, lake, stream or other water. Be considerate of the people camping downstream and the fish and wildlife who depend on this water. Fill a bucket or container with water and take it *away from the water* to accomplish these tasks. It is requested you go at least 100 feet (but never less than 25 feet) away from water sources for this. Biodegradable soaps, debris [and diseases] break down in soil not water.

Do not bury garbage or left over foods. Always pack out your garbage to the nearest trash receptacles or better yet take it home with you. This will reduce problems with bears and wildlife. **Do not bury or burn disposable baby diapers or feminine hygiene products. Do not burn your toilet paper.**

Appropriate sanitation practices for toilet facilitates and garbage disposal will change for different areas.

Developed campgrounds may have toilets and garbage pick ups making your sanitation easy. Where they are provided, visitors are expected to use these facilities for personal sanitation. All used toilet paper should be placed

into the toilet. **Do not put feminine hygiene products (tampons and pads) into any toilet.** Feminine hygiene products should be wrapped and placed into a trash container. Similarly, **do not put disposable baby diapers into any toilet or portable toilet.** Disposable baby diapers may be disposed of in trash containers where provided. If trash containers are not provided, you must pack out the disposable baby diapers and feminine hygiene products.

Dispersed camping areas are free of charge. Chemical toilet facilities and trash receptacles are provided in many of these areas for your convenience. We ask that you please use them, following the same guidelines explained for developed campgrounds.

Where toilet facilities and garbage pick ups are not provided Pack-it-out. Whenever it is feasible, visitors are encouraged to collect human wastes and pack them out of the forest. These wastes need to be disposed of in an approved manner (placed in a toilet, disposed of at dump station or other method acceptable to the county). Do not put collected human wastes (except feminine hygiene products or disposable baby diapers) in trash containers on the National Forest. **When garbage pick-up is not provided visitors must collect all their trash and pack it out to the nearest trash receptacles or better yet take it home with you.**

Wilderness areas are remote, have no sanitation provisions and require more work on our part to help keep our environment clean. Please pack out what you can. When packing out human waste is not feasible it should be buried in an appropriate manner. There are microbes and insects in the soil that will help to decompose wastes. To keep from polluting your water, these wastes should be buried at least 6 inches deep and at least 200 feet from any water, creek, streams or lakes. All used toilet paper should be buried along with the human waste. A trowel can be used to dig the hole. It should be dug down into mineral soils past pine needles if they are present. Do not line these holes with plastic or any material to hinder the microbe decomposition process.

Thanks for taking interest in keeping your Forests Clean



United States
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Forest
Service
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Sequoia National Forest

